



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Ortiz has an extensive history with the Fairgrounds.

Ventura County Fairgrounds Names Deputy Manager

The Ventura County Fairgrounds and Event Center is excited to name Heidi Ortiz to the position of Deputy Manager. Ortiz has an extensive history with the Fairgrounds, having worked as an Executive Assistant to the CEO for 14 years. She also served as a Junior Fair Board advisor for five years.

"I enjoy working with the team, my Fair family, to put on events for the community's enjoyment," said Ortiz. "I love seeing the excitement, joy, and smiles on everyone's face, making the hard work worth it!"

Ortiz has played a pivotal role in her work and in the community, having forged important relationships between the Fairgrounds, local businesses, organizations, and fairgoers. As Deputy Manager, Ortiz will continue to strengthen the bond between the community and the Fairgrounds, while also taking on an extended leadership role, overseeing staff and projects.

"Heidi is often referred to as the glue"
Continued on page 8

Elmhurst Elementary gets ReLeaf

by Shirley Lorraine

A gathering of local dignitaries, school personnel and others took place on March 28 at Elmhurst Elementary School. They were there to celebrate, with the students, the planting of 15 trees in the school yard. Grants from several sources such as CalFire, the Coalition for Clean Air, Southern California Edison and ReLeaf have made this possible.

The Ventura Tree Alliance has been busy advocating for the reforestation of Ventura's tree canopy only since 2021. Already they have been proven to effect great change in the community. Their goal statement reads "The Ventura Tree Alliance works to enhance Ventura's
Continued on page 11



It took a group effort to plant the trees at Elmhurst Elementary School.

Celebrating Excellence: Boys and Girls Club Winners Shine

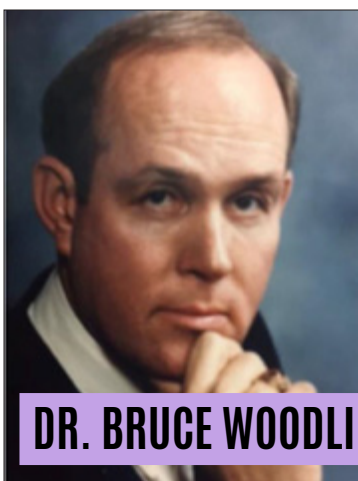
by Ross Williams

In a heartwarming ceremony that captured the essence of community spirit, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura honored their winners of the 2024 Youth of the Year. The event, held at the Bill LeFevre Center on Johnson Dr, served as a platform for our local youth to showcase their remarkable talents, achievements, and aspirations, igniting hope and inspiration among the attendees. The banquet and award ceremony, brought together families, community leaders, and supporters to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of these young individuals.

It all starts with the youths being recognized by Staff at their local Boys and Girls Club as "Kid of the Week." They are chosen for good behavior,
Continued on page 3



As each winner took the stage, they shared their personal journeys.



DR. BRUCE WOODLING

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Your Hometown Paper

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Be yourself;
everyone else
is already
taken.
— Oscar
Wilde

City News



Local residents graduate from CERT training.

The demand for professional first responders can exceed availability

After over six weeks of emergency response training, 40 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) students participated in their final practical exercise, a simulated earthquake with multiple victims. They practiced lifting vehicles, putting out fires, triaging the injured, and managing an incident.

In the aftermath of a major disaster, the demand for professional first responders can exceed availability. We

are so grateful these Ventura and Santa Paula residents are more prepared and feel confident taking action.

This program equips residents with essential knowledge about potential local disasters and how to safely, swiftly, and responsibly respond. Participants will learn how to reduce fire hazards, set up medical treatment areas, assist responders, conduct light search and rescue, and more!

Completing the CERT program

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

- California passed a \$20.00 minimum hourly pay for fast food workers that will probably result in higher costs for some fast foods. Even though this is a California law, Republicans will now blame Biden.

- To the disappointment of thousands gathered in downtown Ventura to watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the inflatable green pig was absent. "Bacon" didn't

former President Donald Trump began selling Bibles.

Posting a sales video on his Truth Social platform, Trump said: "Happy Holy Week! Let's Make America Pray Again. As we lead into Good Friday and Easter, I encourage you to get a copy of the God Bless The USA Bible."

The God Bless The USA Bible, at \$59, includes the U.S. Constitution, the amendments that make up the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Pledge of Allegiance and a "handwritten chorus" to "God Bless The USA."

Regarding this, Rev. Benjamin Cremer stated; "It is a bankrupt Christianity that sees a demagogue co-opting our faith and even our holy scriptures for the sake of his own pursuit of power and praise him for it rather than insist that we refuse to allow our sacred faith and scriptures to become a mouthpiece for an empire."

Donald Trump also took to Truth Social to once again compare himself to Jesus Christ as he complained about the criminal and civil cases against him. Trump claimed that he received a message stating: "It's ironic that Christ walked through His greatest persecution the very week they are trying to steal your property from you."

Tennis shoes, and now bibles - what will he be selling next, Girl Scout Cookies?

- The California Community College Chancellor's office has announced that Oxnard College has full approval to launch a four-year dental hygiene bachelor's degree program. The college plans to welcome its first bachelor's students in fall 2025.

Oxnard College earned tentative approval for the program in the fall, then spent the intervening months under review for potential conflicts with degree programs in the University of California and California State University systems.



requires 24 hours of training and each graduate will receive a certificate of completion, a manual, and a CERT disaster start-up pack containing a helmet, gloves, vest, and safety goggles.

After several months of wild weather and natural disasters, the city of Ventura is re-instituting their program called the Community Emergency Response Team.

It's a free program that trains civilians to respond to emergency situations before, or in place of, first responders, such as assessing the level of trauma, applying tourniquets, CPR, putting out fires and more. It's the first time the C.E.R.T. course has been offered since COVID-19 shut it down.

Ventura Police Department Mac Douglas said they received 93 applications for the course, showing that the community wants this kind of education.

"The fact of the matter is when we have a major incident, our first responders, as good as they are, are going to be overwhelmed," Douglas said. "So, the community needs to take more of a responsibility for their own preparedness and supporting themselves and their neighbors."

Ventura College will start offering a bachelor's degree in automotive career education in fall 2025.

I think it's great that "community colleges" can offer some 4-year degrees, but only if they are in specific fields that will lead to the workplace after graduation. I don't think they should be in the liberal arts.

I have a soft spot in my heart for what we used to call "junior colleges." After high school, I attended Los Angeles City College (LACC) prior to attending USC. I would never have been able to attend USC financially if LACC wasn't first available to me.

I also taught architecture at West Los Angeles College (2-year college) for many years.

- A judge has found Georgia Republican Party official Brian Pritchard guilty of illegally voting nine times over several years. Pritchard has falsely asserted Democrats stole the 2020 election through fraud. Trump was right - the election was rigged.

Mailbox

Dear Sheldon,

I'm writing on behalf of everyone working at New Art City Theatre - the Advisory Board, the volunteers, the artists, and Kirby and myself - to thank you for the article about our upcoming Festival '24! We're grateful for the shout out, especially since Festival '24 is FREE! We hope to be an addition to the already rich cultural scene, but we can't achieve that goal unless folks know what we're doing.

You do incredible work in our community. You keep people abreast of what's happening (and what isn't). The Breeze is vitally important to all of us in

We encourage you to send your opinions to opinions@venturabreeze.com. Please limit them to about 300 words



our beautiful town, and you're providing such a wonderful service to the residents of Ventura. So thank you, again.

Warmly,
Bev Ward
Co-Founder/Co-Producing Artistic Director
New Art City Theatre



Opinion:

Maybe at one time the Albinger Archaeological Museum (On Main across from the County Museum) was something to see and explore. But now it is just a large wasted space. Perhaps a good location for a much needed downtown parking structure.
William Bray

Celebrating Excellence Continued from page 1

character and service to either the Club or the community.

From there, every month each of our four clubhouses selects an elementary, middle school and high school youth to be honored as their "Youth of the Month." At the end of the year, from this pool of winners, each clubhouse elects one of these top winners in each age group to be honored with their clubhouse's "Youth of the Year" award.

As each winner took the stage, they

shared their personal journeys, highlighting the obstacles they overcame and the triumphs they have so far achieved. Their stories resonated deeply with the audience, reflecting the diversity and strength of Ventura's youth population.

Among the honorees was Charlotte Summers, whose life experiences have ignited a passion for medicine as she now wants to become a nurse at a Children's hospital when she grows up. Another remarkable individual, Aurora Phillips, showcased the club's exceptional leadership and the experiences that the Club has provided. "I am happiest here. The Boys and Girls Club made my childhood better." Kristin Brown discussed the confidence that the Club had instilled in her and the friendships that she was able to cultivate and Jaylene Aguirre discussed her passion for tennis and all of the programs that have become available to her because of the Boys and Girls Club.

In addition to recognizing individual achievements, the event underscored the collective effort invested in nurturing the next generation of leaders. Parents, mentors, and volunteers were acknowledged for their unwavering support and guidance, underscoring the importance of community involvement in youth development.

The future of Ventura shines bright with promise, fueled by the passion and potential of its youth. The Boys and Girls Club winners of the 2024 Youth of the Year embody the resilience, compassion, and determination needed to overcome challenges and build a better tomorrow. Their stories serve as a testament to the transformative power of mentorship, education, friendship and community support. As Ventura continues to navigate the complexities of the modern world, these young trailblazers stand as beacons of hope, leading the way towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all.



Valdez Alley

Walking downtown it is easy to pass by Valdez Alley/Eastwood Park and to just keep walking but you are missing a wonderful experience by not entering it. It is right next to the Albinger Museum on Main St. and across from the County Museum.

Valdez is beautiful as you traverse its many stairs (difficult for some). Surprises await you as you take the walk to the top. So the next time don't just walk by it take the journey. Valdez Alley is the walkway where the handsome 1820 Ramon Valdez adobe once stood as the first polling place where all nine eligible voters cast their ballots for Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Photos by Patricia Schallert.

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Jerry Cranham is restoring the statue back to its original luster.

Restoring the Junipero Serra Statue: The Good News

by Patricia Schallert

Restoration efforts are underway to preserve the distinguished statue of Junipero Serra, now situated at the Mission Basilica San Buenaventura. The objective is to carefully remove dirt and red paint while safeguarding the original patina, seamlessly restoring the colors to their initial finish. The patina, which results from exposure to the elements, showcases the statue's aging and basic appearance. To prevent the emergence of a green tint often seen on older statues, an oil bronze finish is meticulously applied, ensuring it maintains its intended look since its creation in 1989 for Junipero Serra.

The restoration process encompasses several crucial elements. An evaluation of the statue's condition identifies areas in need of repair. Skilled expert Jerry Cranham employs specialized techniques, using gentle solvents and tools to eliminate dirt, grime, and pollutants, while stabilizing and reconstructing any damaged portions. The addition of a protective coating serves to guarantee the statue's durability. With Jerry's expertise, he places emphasis on historical accuracy and while preserving the statue's original features and historical integrity.

Jerry began the restoration project

the day it arrived at the Mission and careful observation showed red paint splatters on the statue. "Removal of red paint splatters entails the careful usage of an X-acto knife and scrapper to avoid scratching the statue and exposing its cast and metal." A mixture of linseed oil, denatured alcohol, mineral spirits, and Scotts Liquid Gold oil effectively eliminates surface dirt, including aged particles. Scratches are skillfully filled with wax and sealed to "maintain the statue's integrity". Jerry also uses a modified bees wax to restore "color and finish".

The natural patina, developed through atmospheric exposure, is respected, while the absence caused by a previous cleaning process is accounted for.

The statue's significance lies in its representation of the original 1930s installation, completed through the WPA Works Progress Administration (WPA) National project, constructed as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal initiative. The statue has a rich history in Ventura, having been recast in 1989, commemorating Junipero Serra's role as the city's founder and the namer of both the city and county of San Buenaventura.

Fr. Tom Elewaut, Pastor of the Mission Basilica San Buenaventura describes the final phases of restoration which includes the delivery of the original bronze plaque to the statue's site. A bronze sign will commemorate the original installation at City Hall in 1989, while a second plaque will display the date of installation at the Mission in March



Pastor Tom Elewaut making sure Jerry is doing a good job.

2024. Landscapers will meticulously incorporate vegetation and rocks to accentuate the statue's surroundings. The base will be polished to a dark black, resembling marble. Completion of the final phase is anticipated by April or May.

For those interested in contributing to the restoration and preservation of the Junipero Serra Statue at the Mission Basilica San Buenaventura Gardens, a GoFundMe account has been created to directly accept donations. Your generous support will significantly contribute to this valuable endeavor. Donations can be made through the following link: Help preserve ~ Ventura St. Junipero Serra Statue, organized by Mission Basilica San Buenaventura .

Ventura unknown Historic Adobe

by Richard Senate

Built as early as 1846 the Rodriguez Adobe served as the main house of the Rancho San Miguelito. It could have housed Don Ramon "Nacho" Rodriguez and his family while a larger adobe was built near the mouth of the Ventura River. That adobe sadly fell victim to floods that occasionally plague our county.

It may have been built by Chumash "adobero" (adobe builder), musician and vaquero Juan de Jesus Tumamait. He is believed to be the last Chumash Elder to live in that structure.

In the 1930's the land was purchased by Shell Oil Company and they restored the old house to be used as an office for the oil fields. They added a tile roof (original may have been reeds or wooden shingles) and installed cement floors.

The Rodriguez Adobe stands today on Shell Road and is being used as rental property. No plaque or monument marks the location of the adobe.

A study of the site seems to confirm its early age—the doors and windows line up with the measurements of a Spanish Vara Stick and not a Yankee yard stick. It is Ventura's forth still-standing adobe. The others are The Mission San Buenaventura Church (1809), The Olivas Adobe (1847) and the Ortega Adobe (1857).

The Rodriguez Adobe isn't open to the public, but perhaps it will be in the future when this unknown landmark will be recognized for its historic value.

CITY OF VENTURA

PARKS & RECREATION

Activity Guide

VIEW THE LATEST CITY CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/ActivityGuide

REGISTRATION BEGINS:
April 9, 2024 at NOON



Ivor Davis shared his remarkable career.

Ivor has lived in Ventura for the past 44 years

On March 23, the Ventura Breeze presented Ivor Davis at Portside Ventura Harbor where he introduced his latest book 60th anniversary Beatles and Me On Tour. Breeze publisher Sheldon was the moderator for the event.

Ivor, who has lived in Ventura for the past 44 years entertained the approximately 50 in attendance sharing his remarkable career and wit. An entertaining Q&A followed his presentation.

Over more than half a century as a writer for the London Daily Express and the Times of London, British born Ivor covered major stories in North America. He penned a weekly entertainment column for the New York Times Syndicate for over 15 years, interviewing some of the biggest names in show business, from Cary Grant to Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton to Tom Cruise and Muhammad Ali.

In 1962 he was smuggled onto the campus of the riot-torn University of Mississippi when James Meredith became the first black student ever to be enrolled Three years later Davis was in the front lines as Los Angeles' Watts riots erupted.

In 1964, Davis was the only British daily newspaper correspondent to cover The Beatles' first American tour from start to finish, given unparalleled access to John, Paul, George and Ringo.

Davis covered Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential bid and was in the kitchen in the Ambassador Hotel the night Senator Kennedy was assassinated. He was one of the Boys on the Bus chronicling the life of actor-turned-politician Ronald Reagan, first in his campaign for governor of California, then for

president. He always seemed to be at the right place at the right time.

He was a co-author of the 1969 political book Divided They Stand, which chronicled the Presidential election; and witnessed some of the biggest trials in American history: and, in 1976, he was in San Francisco to see heiress Patty Hearst convicted of robbery after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Over more than half a century as a writer for the London Daily Express and the Times of London, Ivor covered major events in North America. He penned a weekly entertainment column for the New York Times Syndicate for over 15 years.

Ivor's first-hand, insider's memoir, the award winning *The Beatles and Me On Tour: 60th Anniversary Edition* is a fascinating travel back in time where for the first time he chronicles, frankly and humorously, 34 days with the world's most famous band on the road—at a critical moment in the history of rock and roll. His new book contains photographs from some of the world's pre-eminent Beatle photographers—as well a wealth of fascinating new details about the Fab Four.

His new true crime book, "The Devil in My Friend: The Inside Story of a Malibu Murder." It is an account of the famous Eighties trial of Malibu engineer Frederick George Roehler, who was convicted of the murder of his wife and young stepson after an almost year-long trial in the Santa Barbara Courthouse in May 1982. The killings took place close by—at Santa Cruz Island. The book will be published on May 7th.

Ventura's Earth Day Festival returns to Park Plaza

Earth Day Festival will return to downtown Ventura on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Park Plaza on East Thomson Street. This year, hosted by the MERITO Foundation in collaboration with the City of Ventura Sustainability Division and over 40 environmentally minded not-for-profit organizations, governmental agencies, transportation and utilities industries, outdoor recreation businesses, and sustainable food and goods vendors. The Ventura Earth Day Festival 2024 theme is "A celebration of our Blue Planet, Earth!"

Some event highlights include a blessing by Chumash Elder Alan Salazar, followed by opening remarks by our City of Ventura Mayor, Mr. Joe Schroeder. Then, a series of live performances by Inlakech Art Center's Mariachi Band & Ballet Folklórico; local singer and writer Olivia Willhite's Ukulele Surf Pop; Jazz by Cabrillo Middle School Jazz Band "A" & Ventura High School Jazz Combo, with ending performance by 'Strange,' an outstanding local Youth Rock Band. In addition, the most current Electric Vehicles (EV) will be displayed; Patagonia's Child Development Center will lead the Kid's Zone activities; Bike Valet Parking will be available, and all are encouraged to participate in interactive games, the Earthly costume contest, and trivia to win prizes.

In addition, governmental and non-governmental environmental organizations will share information and opportunities with the community, such as events, rebates, programs, and supplies that benefit the planet, regional economies, and human health. We highly encourage all attendees to carpool, use public transportation, or bike to Park Plaza on April 20th. A public parking lot is ½ block from Park Plaza on Santa Clara St.

The Ventura Earth Day Festival 2024 is made possible thanks to the sponsorship of The Port of Hueneme, Toyota Ventura, an Outdoor Equity Grant created through AB 209 and administered by California State Parks, Office of Grants and Local Services, and by in-kind contributions of notable people, businesses such as Open Water, and some of the best artists in the region. Thanks to all, the Ventura Earth Day Festival 2024 will be the most diverse and vibrant ever!

Ventura Earth Day 2024 is the first of a series of events the MERITO Foundation will host in 2024 to commemorate our 10th anniversary. The MERITO Foundation is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization based in Ventura dedicated to protecting the ocean by facilitating transformative experiences to 3,500-4,000 4th-12th grade students per year and their communities through science education, outdoor recreation, hands-on scientific research, advocacy, and green entrepreneurship at no cost to the students or their families. For more information for participants, environmental groups, and vendors about the Ventura Earth Festival, visit <https://meritostaff.wixsite.com/meritoeearthday>. More details about the MERITO Foundation at www.meritofoundation.org or email info@meritofoundation.org

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Candice Dominguez has achieved remarkable success in her professional career.

Ventura High grad kisses her first Lombardi Trophy only five years after high school graduation

Candice Dominguez, a 2014 graduate of Ventura High School, who participated in track and field and was a cheerleader, has achieved remarkable success in her professional career. Now in her sixth season with the Kansas City Chiefs as the Player Engagement Coordinator, Candice has had the opportunity to celebrate three Super Bowl victories with the team, including kissing the Lombardi Trophy, a moment she cherishes.

After graduating from Ventura High School, Candice pursued higher

education, earning her Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Sacramento and her Master of Arts from the University of Nebraska where she also competed on the Track and Field teams, earning two conference championships in the High Jump. She was a Graduate Assistant in Equipment in Olympic Sport at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before joining the Chiefs. In her current role, she focuses on player's personal and professional development, financial education, and continuing education.

Reflecting on her time with the Kansas City Chiefs, Candice shared a memorable experience from her early days as an intern. Hosting Coach Reid's guests during Training Camp, she had the honor of meeting Bill Snyder, legendary Kansas State Football coach, who came in with his son and grandson to practice one day. A few weeks later, she received a piece of mail. "It was a handwritten thank you note from Coach Snyder in iconic K-State purple marker. This Hall of Fame Coach, one of the greatest to do it, took time out of his day to send a brand-new intern a proper thank you. It is almost five years later and I still cherish that note and the impact it made on me," stated Candice.

Candice is also appreciative of all of her Ventura Unified teachers that helped ensure she was prepared for future success. "It's hard to pick a favorite teacher, I was fortunate to have such wonderful educators, but a few were very influential throughout the years including Ms. Garmon and Ms. Tygell (Saticoy Elementary), Ms. Taylor (Anacapa Middle School) and Mr. Anderson and Ms. Bergfeld (Ventura High School)."

Offering advice to students facing challenges with attendance, finding purpose in school and overcoming mental health issues, Candice encourages them to find their space at school and pursue their passions, emphasizing that they have the opportunity to shape their future selves. "It can be a club, a sport, a teacher, the right group of friends, yearbook, metal shop, or something else entirely. Just having something to look forward to and be passionate about helps. The best part about it all, though, is that you still have the opportunity to be whoever you want to be in 'the real world.' Take advantage of that and make educated decisions now to help your future self," suggested Candice.

Addressing all students, Candice had this advice, "Take advantage of your 'student card' for as long as you have it. People will often share their stories, successes, and lessons with students to help guide them. Set up informational interviews with people in positions you want or who work at organizations you want to work for. Learn from their stories and use that to help carve your unique path."

As for Candice's future, she loves her current role. "It is a unique space these young men are in managing both high-performance sports and life outside. I plan to further my career in the athlete development space whether that be for professional or collegiate athletes. That can always change though as there are often new and unique roles in sports as the space is everchanging."

We look forward to seeing what lies ahead for Candice and all of our other VUSD alumni as they continue to seek out new opportunities for success.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

It's time for another **Ventura Friends of the Library Book Sale** Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria
Children's books - buy one get one Free (except graphic novels)

Puzzles; DVDs and CDs \$1.00 each; Books on CD \$1.50-\$2.00 each

California State University, Channel Islands Library Lecture Series

Events are free and open to the public

Defining Regenerative Agriculture in California

Ojai Library Saturday, April 13, 2:00 pm

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is currently in the process of defining what the term regenerative agriculture means. Rachel Soper, Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Channel Islands, will explain all sides of the debate, drawing on public comments given during listening sessions and working group meetings to illustrate the point of view of those who think organic should be the baseline to regenerative, and those who think regenerative should be more inclusive than organic.

Dr. Rachel Soper's publications are on the experiences of indigenous farmers in Ecuador, Black urban gardeners in San Diego, and farmworkers in Oxnard. She examines how each group fits into alternative food movements for food sovereignty and food justice. Dr. Soper is currently writing a book about sustainable, organic, and regenerative farmers in Ventura County. For more information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

Peering Into Darkness: Exploring the Deep Sea

Hill Road Library, Sunday, April 21, 11:30 am

What makes the deep ocean a wondrous, mysterious environment? Dr. Geoffrey Dilly will discuss the strange adaptations deep ocean animals have developed, the human impact on this far-away ocean environment, and his own experiences in deep sea biology, including several dives on Alvin, the most widely recognized deep-sea submersible. For more information, contact Linda Cherry, Hill Road Librarian, Linda.Cherry@ventura.org

The Ventura County Library Foundation is bringing its Rising from the Ashes Home Tour back for a third year, on Saturday, April 20, 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

The "Rising from the Ashes" Home Tour celebrates the strength and solidarity of the Ventura County community. Attendees can look forward to exploring homes rebuilt following the devastating Thomas Fire featuring a variety of architectural styles. The 2024 tour features five homes, a native plant garden, refreshments, live music, and more.

All proceeds from the home tour will directly support the Ventura County Library Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Ventura County Library Services. The funds raised will contribute to a vast array of programs at Ventura County libraries, encompassing literacy, the arts, technology, and cultural lessons designed to engage and inspire library members of all ages throughout the county.

Tickets are \$50 each. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.vclibrary-foundation.org/>

All proceeds benefit the libraries of the city of Ventura.

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In 2023 more than 2500 attendees enjoyed the Earth Day festivities.

Ventura Charter School hosts 13th annual EcoFest

Join us for good green fun celebrating Earth Day Ventura Charter School is excited to once again present Ventura EcoFest, an Earth Day celebration of our planet for the community of Ventura. This family-friendly free event welcomes the community to enjoy good green fun in the form of live performances, a silent auction, a raffle, local vendors and non-profits, food trucks, eco arts and crafts and educational games on Sunday, April 28th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Ventura Charter School campus, 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura.

In 2023 more than 2500 attendees enjoyed the Earth Day festivities, with more expected for this year's event. In support of Earth-friendly practices Ventura Charter School's EcoFest welcomes the community to head to the campus utilizing a variety of transportation options. Bicycle to event and receive bike valet services sponsored by Bike Ventura County. Through Gold Coast Transit District's Youth Ride Free Program, students and children 18 and under ride free with no identification required. There will be a variety of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy, including a kid zone, an EV car exhibit, live music and dance and plenty more. Guests can bid in a silent auction, benefiting Ventura Charter School's many diverse and inclusive academic programs. Among the items available for in-person bidding are outdoor gear, tickets for local entertainment, yoga class passes, whale watching passes, local restaurant gift cards and much more.

In addition to the silent auction, the event will feature a raffle. Pre-sale raffle tickets can be purchased from families of Ventura Charter School students or at the event. All tickets are \$1. The grand prize is \$1,000 in Disney Cash. The raffle will be pulled each hour, with the grand prize drawing at 4:00 p.m. Winners need not be present. Sponsors include Kirby Auto Group of Ventura, UNPaste, Bamieh & De Smeth, Amigos Party Rental, Brooklyn Charm, Bodhi Salt Yoga, Bella Luna Gardens, Edible Ojai and Ventura County, and Mission Bank.

"We are excited to continue this important annual tradition for our community, and our students," said Lisa Hildebrand, Executive Director of Ventura Charter School, "Our students look forward to this event for the fun

but it's also an important reminder for them and for us that we are stewards for our planet and change starts with our own choices." Proceeds from this event benefit Ventura Charter School, a tuition-free nonprofit school that serves 450 students from kindergarten to eighth grade. During school hours, Ventura EcoFest encourages students to take a closer look at their personal habits to see how they affect the planet and make changes, such as a student-led campaign to reduce disposable utensils on campus.

Along with the EcoFest celebration, students experience an involved project-based curriculum centered upon empowerment through critical thinking, empathy, research, and action to benefit the spaces they occupy throughout their lives with inclusion and equity. To learn more about Ventura EcoFest or enrollment at Ventura Charter School, please visit, <https://earthdayventura.org>. Ventura Charter School - Starting as Open Classroom in the 1970's, Ventura Charter School of Global Arts & Education launched in 2006 as a tuition-free public charter school within the Ventura County Office of Education.

The school currently serves over 400 K-8 th grade students on its campus located within the larger DATA middle school property. Ventura Charter School is an expeditionary learning school in partnership with EL Education. It is guided by 10 founding principles and its mission to, "engage every student in meaningful and supportive learning experiences to grow resilient, educated, and socially intelligent human beings."

Ventura County Ballet and Museum of Ventura County launch ballet collaboration

Ventura County Ballet and the Museum of Ventura County are joining forces to celebrate the diverse artists and art forms thriving in Ventura County. The first event of this new collaboration is Dance

ART, an afternoon of dance, visual arts and music at the Museum on Sunday, April 14, at 2:00 pm.

Kathleen Noblin, Founder and Executive Director of Ventura County Ballet, explains, "Our goal is to entertain, inspire and educate our audiences with great ballet and the wide world of dance. We're proud to bring global talent to Ventura County. At the same time, we're committed to giving a stage to local artists, including dancers, choreographers, composers and musicians. With its shared values and beautiful setting, the Museum is a perfect partner."

Elena Brokaw, Executive Director of the Museum of Ventura County, adds, "We're delighted to collaborate with Ventura County Ballet in showcasing local artists across genres. We look forward to continuing to work together on other initiatives to represent the diversity of arts and cultures in Ventura County."

The DANCE ART program highlights classical, neo-classical and contemporary ballet styles performed by international guest dancers Hanna Chudinova and Jack Stewart plus advanced preprofessional dancers from Ballet Academy Ventura, official school of Ventura County Ballet, and State Street Ballet's Professional Track. Choreography by Ventura County residents Marina Fliagina, Brett Weidlich, Meredith Ventura and Emi Pool and music by pianist Rachel Flowers reinforce the "made in Ventura" theme.



Performance by international guest dancers Hanna Chudinova and Jack Stewart.

With music ranging from Prokofiev's Classical Symphony and Vivaldi's Four Seasons to Ginastera's Gaucho dance Malambo and del Aguila's Silencio, the seven pieces on the program explore the evolution of ballet and the many cultures that continue to influence it.

The post-performance reception in the Museum Plaza features music by the Tom Buckner Trio and displays by visual artists Larissa Strauss, glass mosaics; Jaqueline Woods, photography; and Michelle Nosco, painting/ drawing. The artists, all residents of Working Artists Ventura(WAV), will be on hand to discuss their works. Complimentary light refreshments will be served.

Tickets range from \$10-\$25 and are available at <https://www.venturacountyballet.com/>







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The Ventura Chamber held a Ribbon Cutting on March 20. Photo by Rich Ramos.

Local Partnering Organizations Launch Free Mobile Vision Clinic

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at expanding access to vision care for local underserved populations, leading community organizations Rotary International, Lions Clubs International, SEE International, Westminster Free Clinic, and The Salvation Army, announced the launch of a mobile vision clinic.

This innovative service made its debut with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 20, 2024, at 11:30 AM, located at 650 S Petit Ave, Ventura, CA, where lunch was served to attendees. The event featured keynote speaker Matt Levere, County Supervisor, as well as personal testimonies from a few

organizational representatives, such as Sandra Adelante, Optician Technician and Sabriana Marrufo, from the Spirit of Santa Paula. Local KVTA radio personality Tom Spence was The Master of Ceremonies.

The need for mobile services became apparent following the organizations' opening of three free vision clinics across the community. After opening the first clinic in Ventura in 2018, services were expanded through two more clinics, one opening in Oxnard in 2021, and another in Thousand Oaks in 2023. Despite these expansions, it was clear that transportation issues and other



barriers prevented many community members from accessing the much-needed vision care services offered at these clinics. This led to the idea of a mobile clinic, capable of reaching patients directly in their areas.

Thanks to many generous donations and the support of the partnering organizations, a van was purchased and converted to accommodate medical equipment.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the mobile clinic began operations.

The mobile unit will replace the traditional brick-and-mortar setup at the Ventura walk-in and will be

stationed outside the Salvation Army every Tuesday. It will also periodically offer services at the Swap Meet Justice in Oxnard, the Santa Paula Westminster Free Clinic, and many other local events throughout the Central Coast.

Together in partnership, Rotary International, Lions Clubs International, SEE International, Westminster Free Clinic, and The Salvation Army, are committed to providing vision care to underserved communities throughout the Central Coast. To make DONATIONS and/or to learn more about the mobile clinic, please visit <https://ccfreevision.org/>.



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Marisa Aj-Tobar delivering her acceptance speech.

WEV hosted an Award Ceremony

On March 20th Women's Economic Ventures (WEV, pronounced "weave") hosted an Award Ceremony at the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum to grant \$412,500 to 55 Hispanic business owners from across Santa Barbara County. 83 entrepreneurs recently completed WEV's "Emprendimiento" program, an eight-week business skills course taught entirely in Spanish. Upon completion of the training, the business owners had the opportunity to submit a business plan in competition for the \$7,500 grant to help grow their existing small business.

Among the graduates were 25 childcare business owners through WEV's partnership with Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County. One such participant, Maria Equihua, Owner of "Tu Casita" family day center in Santa Maria shared during her graduation speech, "Every day I work as a chef, cleaning lady, teacher, nurse, choreographer, motivator, administrator, and psychologist- and now, thanks to this program, I can call myself an entrepreneur. This program prepared us to be smart business owners who focus on the growth

and operations of our businesses, giving us valuable educational, administrative and financial tools."

Another graduate, Marisa Aj Tobar, arrived in the United States from Guatemala in 2008 with what she describes as a "suitcase full of dreams and goals". She started out taking the bus to clean houses, worked her way up to supervisory positions on commercial cleaning sites which was what gave her the idea to start her own business. Today Marisa runs her own small business, "Marisa's Housekeeping Services" which has other employees and a waiting list. Marisa said that "coming to WEV was about finding guidance, education, the advice to grow, but above all it was about finding the hope and reaffirmation that I could realize my dreams. WEV is the life jacket I needed to jump into the water. My goal is to grow my business so I can employ mothers who would benefit from a flexible schedule that will allow them to have time with their families."

VC Fairgrounds names Deputy Manager Continued from page 1

that keeps us all together," said Ventura County Fairgrounds CEO Jen McGuire. "We are all so proud to have her as our Deputy Manager. Heidi has put her heart and soul into our Fairgrounds and it shows. Her continued commitment to excellence serves as an inspiration to us all."

Ortiz is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she earned her Bachelors in Animal Science. She excelled in academics and athletics, having played four years of collegiate soccer; a two-year team captain. When she's not at the Fairgrounds, Heidi enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter.

The Ventura County Fair is celebrating 150 years in 2024! The fun starts now, with monthly events and contests leading up to the annual Fair this July 31 through August 11, 2024. This year's Ventura County Fair will include new celebrations and pay homage to past traditions.



Senior Living



Phil retired from the Department of Energy 13 years ago.

Meet Ventura senior, neighbor Phil Boehme

by Bob Warnagieris

I met Philip Boehme about 10 years ago in a bible study course at the Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church. We established a friendship that has involved regular coffee discussions on topics that often turn into debates. Two things are characteristic of a serious talk with Phil; he is well read and backs up any statement with facts. Secondly, we can discuss controversial topics from two different points of view without getting upset – now that’s a rare friend.

Phil and his wife Dea have been in Ventura since 1995. Phil, a physicist, retired from the Department of Energy 13 years ago after a career involving nuclear radiation safety. Dea (USC PhD) retired several years ago from the Ventura County Sheriff’s Crime Lab. They have 3 grown children, two boys, a daughter and 5 grandchildren.

Regarding retirement, Phil says he’s happy and enjoys the leisure time he has to spend more time with his family and his many hobbies and projects. Currently he’s occupied with reading, watching old movies, setting up a ham radio operation after passing the federal exam, writing a play about witches in Ojai, learning German for a trip to Germany and playing poker. His advice

on the latter item is “Don’t draw to an inside straight”. He remains interested in travel and adventure, be it in California or abroad.

Looking back at his life, Phil cites the high and low of his years. The high would be enlisting in the Marine Corp and getting married to Dea. On the challenging side has been a diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease. His advice for a good life is “Love your family and keep meeting new friends”. As to principles to live by, Phil counts the Code of Chivalry and the Catholic religion. Having been around Phil for many years, I would also add love of country to his strong beliefs.

This introduction would not be complete without citation of Philip’s combat experience as a photographer with the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam at the age of 22. Phil is a 100% disabled veteran from PTSD with vivid memories of the war. His official DOD photos from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration can be viewed on YouTube video. Click here to see them: <http://youtube/watch?v=W-J5WBLApc-k>. The photos mostly cover Operation Idaho Canyon, the last major Vietnam engagement for the 3rd Marine Division. President Nixon announced



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the first troop withdrawal of the war during this operation in August 1969. The 3rd Marine Division was selected to leave first.

For anyone interested in other websites regarding the war and special events or people of Phil’s experience, please contact Bob Warnagieris at DrRobertJW@gmail.com for a listing.

fate had another plan. She was handed her student computer punch cards for the administration office. Fascinated by the idea of holes that could spawn information, she studied them until she deciphered what each said. Inspired by an acquaintance studying computer technology, Caloia snuck into a programming class. The rest, as they say, was history.

“In 1962, computers weren’t common. My parents were shocked that I wanted to be a computer programmer,” Caloia says. “Programming was a tedious, repetitive task eventually relegated as women’s work. But when my folks realized I was making more money than my dad, they came around.”

She started at Douglas Aircraft programming business applications and later moved to TRW. “I became head of an all-male group that maintained systems for TRW’s business sector.” Caloia transferred to the scientific sector supporting Federal Aviation Administration contracts. That led to the FAA’s technical center in New Jersey. Still following FAA contracts, she wound up in Camarillo on loan to Unisys. Loving the coast since her UCSB days, she purchased a hillside home in Ventura, but Unisys lost the contract.

Needing income, Pat bought into the candy vending machine business. She traveled around Ventura County stocking machines, collecting coins and baking cookies with broken M&Ms.

Fortunately, a former FAA employee started an air traffic control software consulting company and asked Caloia to help maintain the ATC software at England’s CAA—equivalent to the FAA. Excited to live overseas, it was also an awesome opportunity for her young son.

Continued on page 10



Caloia loves living in Ventura.

Fate had another plan for Patricia Caloia

by Sheli Ellsworth

Patricia Caloia had two choices after graduating from Elsinore High School. Did she want to be a nurse or a teacher? After four years at UCSB, she was qualified to teach secondary English and Math. She received a Singer sewing machine and a Betty Crocker cookbook for graduation. All she needed to set up housekeeping was a husband.

But during the graduation process,



Senior Living



Free services provided to seniors and to people with disabilities in Ventura County

by Carol Leish, MA

“Every program we offer at the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) is free, with no charge,” according to Roger Horne, Public Information Officer at the VC Area Agency on Aging. “We have a ‘No Wrong Door Policy,’ which means if an older adult, a person with disabilities, or a caregiver

call needing help, but is not sure of what services are in the community to help them, we will first try to connect them with our programs if we can. If not, we will try to refer them to other agencies that can assist them.

“The Information & Assistance team at our agency takes the initial phone call from someone who calls asking for assistance. A social worker figures out what that person’s needs are to help them out. Our overall goal is to help people to stay in their own home, since people do better by staying in their own homes, while keeping them safe and healthy.”

Some of the various types of programs provided by the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging include: 1) Transportation; 2) the Senior Nutrition Program; 3) Digital Services; 4) Health Insurance Counseling; 5) Employment; 6) Housing through HomeShare; 7) Fall Prevention, and 8) LiveWell (annual publication).

Free transportation is provided for those who are 60 years old or older, along with those, of any age, who have an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) card through a free bus pass. Those who are 65 years old or older can get free Dial-A-Ride tickets to use for transportation. Medi-rides may also be available to individuals who have no other way to get to a medical appointment.

The Senior Nutrition Program funds congregate meals at various senior centers throughout the county. Seniors can get free meals, or give a suggested donation of \$3 for a meal. “There is also a meal delivery program for those who are homebound. Some receive the same meals that the senior centers serve,”

according to Horne. “At the VCAAA, we send out boxes that have a week’s or month’s amount of food in them.”

“Digital resources,” according to Horne, “help to deal with the ‘Digital Divide,’ by offering education. GetSetUp offers classes for older adults in which they can learn about anything that may interest them. Trualta offers free online support and training for caregivers. To sign up for these free services, first go to the VCAAA website at www.vcaaa.org, and click onto ‘Digital Resources.’”

For those who need free help with Medicare, Horne said, “We offer health insurance counseling through our HICAP department by giving one-on-one help, and through giving presentations to various groups. This is unbiased help to support older adults who need it.”

Employment help for seniors is also offered. The Senior Community Service Employment Program assists low-income individuals to get back into the workforce. Help on the www.vcaaa.org website is available through a video done by the Workforce Development Committee, which is part of the Advisory Council for the VC Area Agency on Aging: ‘Get That Job!’ The committee also recently did a job fair in Eastern Ventura County. A job fair in Western Ventura County is in the works.

“Housing can be difficult, especially with the high costs of housing within Ventura County,” according to Horne. “HomeShare is a program that matches home seekers with home providers. Some people may have a house that is too big for them. We help them to find compatible people to rent a room, who may be able to help them with various things around their homes.”

The Fall Prevention program aims to help people who have fallen, or who are fearful of falling, by offering several evidence-based classes that are aimed at keeping people on their feet.

“LiveWell, which is an annual publication, has various interesting articles that we think older adults, caregivers, and people with disabilities would want to read,” according to Horne. “It also has listings of agencies throughout the county that deal with topics like: 1) Health; 2) Legal; 3) Food; 4) Caregiving; 5) Community Resources; and, 6) Transportation.”

For more information about the free services provided, or to get assistance, please contact the VC Area Agency on Aging at either their phone number: 805-477-7300; or, through their website: www.vcaaa.org.

Fate had another plan for Patricia Continued from page 9

The home was rented out and they moved to London. “The England experience was wonderful. My son became a Sea Scout, vowing to defend the Queen.” Caloia recalls standing in the control tower at Heathrow, watching the Concord land. Her mother even visited London to see the sights. “Mom never did understand my job. She just knew it had something to do with airplanes and computers.”

Three years later, she went to New Jersey contracting with the FAA. They returned to Ventura in time for her son’s freshman year at VHS. She considered early retirement, but fate was not finished with Caloia. She received another offer from the CAA. Caloia and her son moved back to England. “It felt a little like going home.”


After two years, they came back to Ventura. Her son graduated from VHS and headed to Santa Barbara for college. Caloia continued consulting on air traffic control software in New Jersey, El Paso, and Raytheon outside Boston. Eventually, she longed to return to California.


Caloia had invested in real estate through the years, and retired in her Ventura home. These days she oversees her properties, enjoys gardening, walking, and always theater. She supervises a writer’s group and is working on a couple of novels. She recently completed a fun children’s book for her grand-daughter: London Magic based on their unique experiences across the pond. She is a voracious reader who enjoys the occasional lazy afternoon with a book and her rescued cat, Patch.

Caloia loves living in Ventura. “It has the conveniences of a city but with the feel of a small town. If I choose, almost everything I need is within a couple of miles.” Her favorite places are So Cal theatres, the beach and on a plane. Occasionally she finds herself snorkeling in Hawaii or flying to visit her son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter in Maryland.


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Nathan Rivera and Jessie Andra Smith: A Jazzy Folk Fusion.

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April 6, 7 PM - Nathan Rivera and Jessie Andra Smith: A Jazzy Folk Fusion

Dive into the rich, jazzy folk melodies of Nathan Rivera and Jessie Andra Smith. This Temecula-based duo brings the unique resonance of guitars and accordion, blending male and female vocals in a captivating interplay. Accompanied by the talents of Trevor Mulvey on upright bass and Blake Armstrong on drums, their shows are a blend of original music, storytelling, and audience interaction, creating an unforgettable experience. From Mexico to France, their global journeys bring a wealth of stories and songs right to our stage.

April 18, 7 PM - Kray Van Kirk: A Tapestry of Song

Join Kray Van Kirk on a musical odyssey where folk Americana meets Celtic roots in a celebration of the Hero's Quest that binds us all. With his precise baritone and fine finger-style guitar playing, Van Kirk's performances are an exploration of identity, ability, and history. Transitioning from a promising career in science to the uncertain but rewarding path of music, Van Kirk has embraced his passion, sharing his journey through his latest live concert CD, acclaimed as "Album of the Month" by CelticMusicRadio.net.

April 28, 7 PM - Eli Cook: A Night of Unforgettable Music

Experience the raw, electrifying talent of Eli Cook, a virtuoso whose guitar work seamlessly spans blues and Hendrix-inspired rock. Raised in Virginia on a rich diet of blues and rock, Cook's moody yet dynamic performances promise a night of musical intensity and emotional depth. Don't miss this opportunity to witness a master at work, where each note promises to leave an indelible mark on your soul.

Doors open at 6:30 PM, with performances starting at 7 PM. Tickets are \$20 and available for purchase at www.NambaArts.com.



Elmhurst Elementary gets ReLeaf Continued from page 1

urban canopy, to beautify Ventura and contribute to counteracting climate change. Our goals are to inspire, engage and support Venturans in planting and caring for trees through education, advocacy, volunteerism and fundraising."

Elmhurst Elementary has quite a large uncovered grassy area. By planting trees at strategic spots around the grounds, as they grow, the trees will supply much needed shade and a healthier environment for the students.

At this celebration, 15 trees were planted. Individual classes adopted trees, named them and helped plant them. Many classes painted rocks for placement around the base of the trees. The students were excited to get their hands in the dirt, artfully place their rocks and proudly display signs sporting

the names chosen for their trees.

One tree in particular, a stately magnolia, was named Zephyr- in honor of a student who passed away recently.

Former Mayor and Alliance co-founder Christy Weir, along with co-founder Barbara Brown, Ventura County Board of Supervisors Matt Lavere, school board member Sabrena Rodriguez, and volunteers from the Tree Alliance lifted their shovels for the cause.

159 Trees have already been planted in Ventura because of the Alliance's efforts, with many more planned. Bike trails, city parks and schools have and will receive new plantings to maintain the landscape we enjoy. To learn more, volunteer or support the Alliance, visit their website at www.VenturaTreeAlliance.com. They would love to have you take part.

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

• This year, the French Bulldog took Los Angeles's top spot in the American Kennel Club's (AKC®) 2023 ranking of the most popular AKC-recognized dog breeds in the U.S.

The French Bulldog was also recognized as the #1 pup in Miami, FL and Detroit, MI.

It's the battle of the Retrievers this year in Los Angeles as the Golden Retriever takes the Labrador Retrievers spot as 3rd most popular breed.

"The French Bulldog is coming in hot this year," said AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo. "This family friendly breed is making its way into everyone's hearts."

Los Angeles's top 5 breeds for 2023:

1. French Bulldogs
2. Bulldogs
3. Golden Retrievers
4. Poodles
5. Labrador Retrievers

The American Kennel Club also announced its nationwide rankings today. The playful and adaptable French Bulldog is America's most popular breed for the second consecutive year,

Since overtaking the loveable Labrador Retriever as the most popular breed, the French Bulldog's popularity has continued to surge. The breed is playful, adaptable and has an even temperament. Frenchies are very popular among city dwellers, as they're also portable and get along with almost anyone.

2023 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.

1. French Bulldog
2. Labrador Retriever
3. Golden Retriever
4. German Shepherd Dog
5. Poodle
6. Dachshund
7. Bulldog
8. Beagle
9. Rottweiler
10. German Shorthaired Pointer

• People sometimes conclude that cats are unfriendly, unwilling to learn or domineering, but their characteristics have origins in their evolution and continue to be influenced by how humans treat them, say veterinarians. "There are so many misconceptions that cats are spiteful, or cats are being jerks, that they're being aloof or asocial," says cat behaviorist Luke Hollenbeck, "but cats are trying to communicate with us all the time, and people have to be really good at understanding that."

• Service Dogs Lead to Fewer Seizures in Resistant Epilepsy by Eve Bender

Working with medically trained service dogs is associated with a 31% reduction in seizures compared with usual care in treatment-resistant epilepsy, a new study showed.

Investigators speculate that the dogs may ease participants' stress, leading to a decrease in seizure frequency, although they note this relationship warrants more study.

"Despite the development of numerous antiseizure medications over the past 15 years, up to 30% of people with epilepsy experience persistent seizures," study author Valérie van Hezik-Wester, MSc, of Erasmus University Rotterdam in Rotterdam,

the Netherlands, said in a press release.

The unpredictable nature of seizures is one of the most disabling aspects of epilepsy, Hezik-Wester added. Seizure dogs are trained to recognize seizures and respond when they occur.

"The tasks that these dogs perform along with their companionship may reduce seizure-related anxiety, also potentially reducing seizures caused by stress, the most common trigger for seizures," she said.

The study included 25 individuals with medically refractory epilepsy who had an average of two or more seizures per week, with seizure characteristics associated with a high risk for injuries or dysfunction. They also had to be able to care for a service dog.

All were observed under usual care, which included antiseizure medications, neurostimulation devices, and other supportive therapies. Participants could then choose to work with a service dog that had completed socialization and obedience training or be assigned a puppy they would train at home.

The median follow-up was 19 months with usual care and 12 months with the intervention. Participants recorded seizure activity in diaries and completed surveys on seizure severity, quality of life, and well-being every 3 months. Daily seizure counts were converted to obtain cumulative seizure frequencies over 28-day periods.

Of the 25 original participants, six discontinued trial participation before the end of follow-up, four of whom left the study due to difficulty with dog care and training.

Participants receiving usual care reported an average of 115 seizures per 28-day period, while those with trained service dogs recorded 73 seizures in the same period, or a 37% difference between groups.

Researchers found that participants had an average of 31% fewer seizures during the past 3 months when they had seizure dogs, with seven participants achieving a 50%-100% reduction in seizures.

The number of seizure-free days increased from an average of 11 days per 28-day period before receiving a service dog to 15 days after working with a dog.

Scores on the EQ-5D-5L, which measures perceived health problems, decreased on average by 2.5% per consecutive 28-day period with the intervention, reflecting an increase in generic health-related quality of life (0.975; 95% CI, 0.954-0.997).

"These findings show that seizure dogs can help people with epilepsy," said van Hezik-Wester. "However, we also found that this partnership with seizure dogs might not be the right fit for everyone, as some people discontinued their participation in this program. More research is needed to better understand which people can benefit from working with seizure dogs."

In an accompanying editorial, Amir Mbonde, MB, and Amy Crepeau, MD, of Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, noted the findings add to a growing body of work on the effectiveness of service dogs in reducing seizure frequency.

"In addition to improved seizure control, the EPISODE study demonstrated the benefit of seizure dogs in enhancing the quality of life for

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Sophie is a 2-year-old Border Collie. She likes car rides, fetching - frisbee, ball, toys. Eating!

Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself to Scampclub@venturabreeze.com. You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

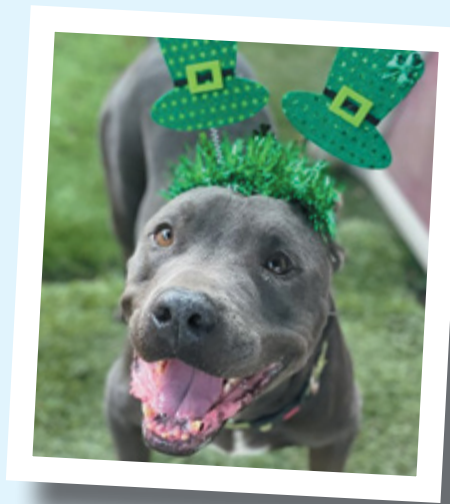
patients, a crucial component of comprehensive epilepsy care," they wrote.

In prior studies, seizure dogs have identified an odor that a person emits before a seizure in up to 97% of people, they noted, adding that this ability "offers immense clinical benefits to people with epilepsy, enhancing their independence, social engagement,

employment opportunities, self-confidence, and thus quality of life."

The study was funded by the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development and Innovatiefonds Zorgverzekeraars. Smith and Jones reported no relevant financial relationships. The authors reported no disclosures.

Forever homes wanted

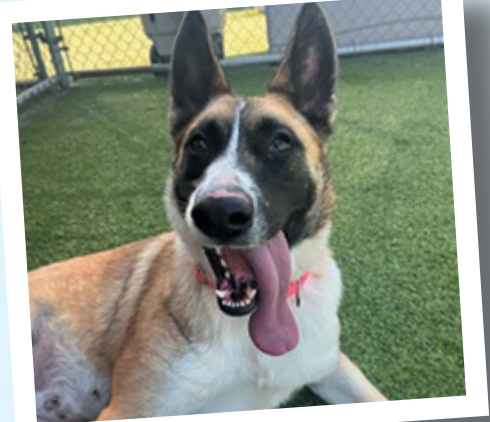


Hi: I'm Rudy, an almost 5-year-old Pit Bull X. Thanks to my big ears and grey color my good luck charm is an elephant. Like an elephant I'm strong and bring a positive energy to every human I meet! I would love a family that doesn't mind a lap dog as I enjoy sitting in the laps of anyone who will allow it. I would love a yard to sunbathe and relax in, as I'm a mellow guy at heart. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Lace is an absolutely gorgeous, really solid dog and we don't know why she keeps being overlooked! She's young, fun and playful with both dogs and people. At the shelter, she is considered a "green" dog, meaning she is able to be taken out by any volunteer and attend off-site events!

Our shelter is full so adoptions, fostering, and reclaiming your lost pets is needed now more than ever!

If you'd like to meet Lace, schedule an appointment at <https://www.vcas.us/adopt> or come down to the shelter during normal Adoption Hours of 1:00pm - 6:00pm Tuesday - Sunday. If you have questions, please contact us at (805) 388-4341 or info@vcas.us.





Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Sexual Battery By Fraudulent Representation

On March 21, 2024, the Ventura Police Department Major Crimes unit served an arrest warrant on Dr. Fernando Gomez at his office in Ventura Limitless Functional Therapy 4562 Westinghouse St. Gomez's arrest stemmed from two separate sexual battery reports. The victims alleged they were sexually

battered by Gomez while seeking his chiropractic care. As a result of the investigation, Major Crimes Detectives requested and were granted a warrant for Gomez's arrest. This investigation is ongoing. The Major Crimes Detectives are asking anyone with information related to these crimes or any other crimes committed by the suspect to contact Detective Gray at (805)339-4472.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to.

Tuesday 3/12

10:55am, officers issued Harbor Patrol badge stickers to Moorpark unified school district children for participating in beach cleanup at Harbor Cove.

7:45pm, while on patrol in Rescue B-19, officers contacted several vessels engaged in hoop netting near the breakwall. Warnings were issued for a motorized kayak without navigation lights, not registered. Another vessel with 3 POB's, requesting contact info because they are having mechanical issues.

Wednes 3/13

1:45pm, dispatched to an aircraft down near Faria Beach. Officers responded in Fireboat with US coast guard and VC sheriff helicopter, but call was false alarm.

Thursday 3/14

6:30pm, dispatched to an assault at VWM D-dock. Officers responded with VFD/AMR and VPD to assist a 52 y/o male with major injuries from a fight with trespassers. The patient refused treatment or transportation to hospital.

Friday 3/15

10:03am, officers placing flowers at the Paul Korber Memorial at Harbor Cove. Today is the anniversary for the Harbor Patrol Officer, who tragically died in an Ocean Rescue in the South Jetty rip current.

Saturday 3/16

4:40pm, dispatched to a capsized kayak, person in the water near the District longdock. Officers responded, assisted victim onto the Fireboat.

Sunday 3/17

11:03am, received a request for a tow of a 34ft sailboat being towed by another. Officers responded in the Fireboat, took over the tow 1mile outside harbor.

4:47pm, dispatched to a boat fire at VWM phase II. Officers responded in the Fireboat, found an older motor vessel with heavy exhaust, no fire.

Tuesday 3/19

7:00am, contacting a nuisance sailboat at the launch ramp. The skipper, "Garth" has far worn out his welcome at most harbors in the area. He was reluctant to leave, officers wrote a citation for failing to obtain permission to secure.

10:03pm, while on patrol, issued written warnings to two fishermen for multiple violations of ordinances and State fishing laws. Contacted the pair hoop netting at the breakwall, terminated their voyage for no lifejackets or flares.

Wednes 3/20

11:44pm, received request for access to marina for Fish & Wildlife warden investigating a fisherman stealing hoop nets at the breakwall, he was arrested.

11:59pm, 2023/24 California spiny lobster season closes till October 2024.

Thursday 3/21

10:30am, officers meeting with Manson Construction discussing the upcoming maintenance dredging of Ventura Harbor. This year Manson will dredge into the harbor and into the keys for first time in years. Also they will dredge the main channel and the sandtrap, hopefully replenishing harbor beaches that have been heavily eroded this last winter by storms and large waves.

Saturday 3/23

11:17am, received report of a transient stealing items from construction site on Anchors Way. Ventura PD was contacted and they investigated the incident.

4:45pm, officers monitoring large commercial vessels returning to port with dangerous entrance conditions and Manson Dredge in the entrance.

Tuesday 3/26

5:30am, observed NWS issued Small Craft Advisory, raised warning pennant.

9:06am, received request for Dredge passing instructions from a boater in the keys. Advised he could contact the dredge by hailing "Mr. Manson" VHF 16/67 for passing instructions from dredge captain.

MANAGEMENT ANALYST

JH Biotech Inc. is seeking a Management Analyst in Ventura, CA. Cndct rsrch on agrclurl prdcts, gthr & orgnz info related to idntfd issues for improvement. Analyze collected data & formulate solutions or alternative approaches applicable in global markets. Develop & draft apps for FDA pesticide rgstrtn & WHO PQ of vector control products. Manage regulatory studies & generate analysis reports to ensure compliance w/ federal, state & local envtl protection regulations. \$70K/year. Rqmts: MBA & Master of Laws. 1 yr exp. in mngmnt project. Mail resume: 4951 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura, CA 93003.



4200 Olivas Park Drive

SPRING EVENTS

APRIL 14, 2024

Owl Festival

11am-3pm • Free

Celebrate Olivia, our resident great horned owl, at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park!

Enjoy free owl-themed activities, including arts & crafts, face painting, games, and tours of the adobe home.



Photo: John Lee Wong

Visit the gift shop and view our new art exhibit in the small adobe.



CITY OF VENTURA PARKS & RECREATION

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Events

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"What channels have the best cat shows?"

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	9	4	6	5	7	2	3	1
5	2	1	8	4	3	9	6	7
7	6	3	2	9	1	5	4	8
1	5	2	3	8	4	6	7	9
3	8	7	9	6	2	1	5	4
6	4	9	1	7	5	8	2	3
2	1	6	7	3	9	4	8	5
4	7	8	5	1	6	3	9	2
9	3	5	4	2	8	7	1	6

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	C	A	L	E	R	A	G	A	S			
S	C	A	R	E	D	O	N	L	I	N	E	
A	E	R	I	E	S	M	O	O	R	E	S	
N	N	E	S	E	D	A	N	C	H	E	T	
D	I	E	T	L	E	N	H	A	Z	E		
S	C	R	J	B	V	O	Y	A	G	E	S	
			G	O	V	V	E	T				
N	A	B	O	K	O	V	R	E	C	A	P	
O	X	E	N	L	A	M	F	R	A	V	I	
M	I	A	T	L	X	E	S	T	O	N		
D	O	T	C	O	N	N	U	E	N	K		
E	M	I	G	R	E	O	I	L	E	A	D	S
G	T	I	L	S		S	L	L	P	S		



Business Profile



Chili Basil Thai Cuisine

Come and celebrate Chili Basil Thai Cuisine as it quickly becomes the talk of the town, captivating patrons with the culinary brilliance of Lea Kateloy and her business partner, Mochy Munglad.

You are invited to their Ribbon Cutting on April 11 at 10:00am!

What sets this restaurant apart? It's the seamless blend of Lea's husband JK's and Mochy's culinary skills, cultivated over three decades in top Thai culinary schools and prestigious venues like Bangkok's renowned Shangri-La Hotels and the iconic Eastern & Oriental Express.

Adding to the mix, Lea, with her 15 years of experience as a flight attendant for Gulf Air, Japan and United Airlines, brings her dedication to customer

service to the forefront. Fluent in English, Malay, Thai, and Japanese, she ensures that exceptional hospitality remains a cornerstone for her and the team. Together, this dynamic trio is committed to continuing crafting unforgettable dining experiences, aiming to provide every patron with a unique, flavorful, and delightful journey.

Their culinary adventure began with the beloved Siam Elephant Thai Restaurant in Carpinteria, flourishing from 2009 to 2023. Building on their triumph, they introduced Siam Imperial in Imperial Beach in 2016, where patrons can relish signature dishes alongside other authentic Thai cuisine. From succulent honey pork ribs to refreshing avocado asparagus and grilled shrimp

salad, and the indulgent flavors of lamb shank Massaman curry with roti, both locations offer a sensory feast. Aside from these signature dishes, there are delicious vegan and gluten-free options to meet different dietary needs. What truly sets Chili Basil Thai Cuisine apart is their steadfast commitment to utilizing only the freshest ingredients and eschewing MSG. This dedication to quality and authenticity ensures that customers return time and again, eager to savor the unique flavors that define their dining experience. Come by, check it out and taste the difference! Chili Basil Thai Cuisine, 6100 Telegraph Road, Ste F, Ventura CA 93003, or call (805) 676-0000. Don't forget to explore their menu at www.chilibasilventura.com.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. There are all levels of play, and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact Richard 805-850-8011, Rose 805-659-9223, or buckleyrose357@gmail.com. All are Welcome.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets every first and third Monday of the month at the Church of the Foothills, Ventura. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://venturacountyphilatelic.org>.

Monthly Beach Cleanup: This is the first Saturday of every month! Meet your neighbors and help keep our beach looking fresh. Pierpont Beach Community Council hosts it in partnership with Surfrider. Meet up near the beach at the end of Seward. (1140 S Seward St) 8:30-10:30 a.m. Arrive any time during the timeframe. Fun for the whole family! Supplies provided BYO water.

Paws for Reading brings together young readers and affectionate canine listeners to help boost the confidence of beginning readers. Hill Road Library, Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5 p.m. and E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages are welcome.

April 4, 8: Livingston's Camarillo Grief Center is adding new grief support groups that cater to specific bereavement needs. Upcoming close-ended Spring support groups are Healing Grief Through Art, Thursdays 6-7:30 p.m. (April 4th through April 25th), Healing Grief through Yoga, Mondays 6-7:30 p.m. (April 8 through May 20th). Space is limited. All support groups are free for the community. For reservations, contact 805-389-6870 or online at lmvna.org/grief.

April 6: Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale at the Vons shopping center at Telegraph & Victoria from 10 - 3 p.m. Children's books - buy one get one Free (except graphic novels) DVDs and CDs \$1.00 each, Books on CD \$1.50-\$2.00 each.

April 7: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking Open to the Public. For more information call 805-

517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA
April 13: The Coast Guard encourages all boaters to take a boating safety course that meets the National Boating Education Standards before they go boating. The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Boat America course is an introductory boater certificate course for novice boaters. The Boater Card, issued from the state Division of Boating and Waterways, is required this year for persons 60 years of age or younger. Saturday 8- 4:30 p.m. Location is Coast Guard Recruiting Building, Oxnard. Cost is \$30. Checks payable to: "USCG Aux Flotilla 72". RSVP by April 5 seating is limited. Contact Auxiliast Robert Hamming, rhamming@sbcglobal.net, (805) 701-7216.

April 20: On Saturday afternoon, from 1-3 p.m., the Ventura County Genealogical Society will present genealogist Debra Dudek speaking on "Unusual Places to Find Births and Naturalizations." All VCGS lectures are free and open to members and the public. Non-members may request a Zoom invitation at <https://venturacogensoc.org/request-invitation-to-lecture/>. Please note that VCGS cannot respond to same-day requests. The DNA Special Interest Group meeting will precede the general meeting from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Zoom. Luran Elam will address "The Leeds Method and Other Data Visualizations I Wish I'd Learned Sooner." Contact webmaster@venturacogensoc.org to be added to the DNA SIG invitation list.

April 21: The Hill Road Library would like to share an upcoming event as part of the California State University-Channel Islands Library Lecture Series. Dr. Geoffrey Dilly, Associate Professor of Biology at CSU-CI, will visit the Hill Road Library at 1070 S Hill Rd at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday to give a talk entitled "Peering into the Darkness: Exploring the Deep Sea."

Ojai news and events

Chamber On The Mountain, a chamber music concert series in Ojai, CA, presents the brilliant young pianist, Dominic Cheli, for a beautiful solo piano performance on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm. The performance takes place in Logan House, located at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Upper Ojai. Tickets \$35.00 at ChamberOnTheMountain.com. Audience members are invited to meet the artist at a lovely outdoor patio reception following the performance, while taking in a breathtaking view of Topa Topa Mountain.

Alongside the beauty of the Ojai Valley are many citizens in need of assistance. The Ojai Women's Fund (OWF) is holding an educational event on April 11, highlighting two new trends. Megan Telfer and Jayn Walter, the co-executive directors of Help of Ojai, will speak. The talk and following discussion will be held at the Sane Living Center on April 11, 5:30 to 7 PM.

Ojai Women's Fund welcomes all Ojai Valley residents to meet and converse about the various needs in our valley, what is being done, and what more is needed. Doors open at 5:15 PM, and refreshments will be served.

Come and be informed! You will be astounded at all our very beloved Ojai needs, most never seen by residents or tourists. Seating is limited so kindly RSVP at <https://www.ojaiwomensfund2.org>.

PLEASE JOIN US!
RIBBON CUTTING
Thursday 4/11/24 @ 10am!

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Dredging of Ventura Harbor. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Ventura Harbor celebrates \$8.4M in dredging

The Ventura Port District proudly announces the commencement of the annual dredging for Ventura Harbor's entrance channel, an annual program that is critical to the harbor community and made possible through the dedicated efforts of Congressman Salud Carbajal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and their contractor, Manson Construction.

This significant undertaking underscores the recognition of Ventura Harbor's importance as California's largest commercial fishing harbor most years. The annual dredging of the federal navigation channel is an essential action that ensures the harbor remains navigable, safe, and prosperous for the industries and boaters that rely on our harbor's working waterfront.

"The annual dredging project not only facilitates safer maritime navigation in the Ventura Harbor but is essential to maintain the economic vitality of commercial fishing, recreational boating, tourism, and all of our waterfront business partners," shares Brian Pendleton, Ventura Port District General Manager.

Congressman Carbajal's efforts on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget have secured \$8,471,000 for the Corps to perform Ventura Harbor's dredging program which will commence in the next few weeks. Further, his advocacy has seen the President's Budget request include \$8,796,000 for Ventura Harbor in Fiscal Year 2025, which puts Ventura in a very strong position for next year's dredging as well.

"The Central Coast's harbors and ports are central to our community's livelihood and lifestyle. Whether it's the family enjoying a Saturday sail or a fisherman collecting their daily catch, having safe and operational channels and waterfronts are crucial to our region," said Rep. Carbajal. "I'm proud to have secured these important funds for the Central Coast in the negotiations over this year's budget agreement, and I will continue to work with our local officials to ensure their needs are met as we face more extreme weather patterns and other abnormal threats to the

Central Coast's harbors and ports."

Michael Blumenberg, Chair of the Ventura Port District's Board of Port Commissioners, said "Congressman Salud Carbajal continues to play a vital role in securing the federal funding necessary for our Harbor dredging project each year. His efforts have been crucial in ensuring federal recognition and support for the harbor's economic and public benefit to the region".

The collaboration, between the Ventura Port District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and their contractor, Manson Construction, continues to demonstrate the best in federal and local partnerships. Along with keeping the harbor navigable, the dredge efforts provide high-quality sand used to nourish the public beaches in the Ventura Harbor for beach goers.

"As we recognize the importance of this dredging project, we extend our deepest gratitude to Congressman Salud Carbajal for his unwavering support and dedication. His advocacy continues to contribute to the success and dependability of our working waterfront," Blumenberg said.

The Ventura Port District invites the community to come and see the re-nourished beaches at the conclusion of the project. In the meantime, the public is asked to be mindful of the construction activities in the water and on the beach and to respect the presence of protected species including the Western Snowy Plover, Least Terns, and California Grunion and their essential habitat, which benefits from the responsibly managed sand placement of this project.

For any questions regarding the project, please contact Ventura Harbor Harbormaster John Higgins at jhiggins@venturaharbor.com (navigation), Sr. Business Operations Manager Todd Mitchell at tmitchell@venturaharbor.com (dredging), or for emergencies, contact Harbor Patrol through 9-1-1 dispatch services or on marine radio channel 16. For information on Ventura Harbor and Ventura Port District programs, beaches, and boater amenities visit VenturaHarbor.com.

Ventura introduces enhanced permit counter and services

The City of Ventura is stepping up its permit services with a new centralized permit center located at Room 117 at City Hall following the success of Ventura Online Permit Services (Ventura OPS) introduced in 2021. This upgrade demonstrates Ventura's commitment to simplifying the permit process and offering personalized assistance to meet the needs of each project.

"These improvements underscore our commitment to modernizing services as we strive to enhance customer experience and satisfaction," remarked Mayor Joe Schroeder. "With the updated permit counter at City Hall, we are dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of our community, making the permit process more efficient and user-friendly, and ensuring easier access to City staff for questions and information."

The recent enhancement to permit services introduces online appointment booking for all permitting needs, such as building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing services. Customers, businesses, and contractors can effortlessly schedule appointments online to address permit or development inquiries with Permit Services, Building and Safety, Ventura Water, Fire Prevention,

Land Development, and Planning. This streamlined process simplifies departmental reviews and ensures individuals receive real-time updates and seamless communication with city staff.

Since the inception of Ventura OPS three years ago, the City of Ventura has seen a significant increase in permit distribution. The number of permits has risen from 4,821 in 2021 to a projected 6,600+ in 2024, reflecting a growth rate of approximately 36.9%. Additionally, with the creation of Insta Permits, tailored for express and solar projects, the permit process has been streamlined by automating issuance upon submission and payment. This increase underscores the steadfast dedication to streamlining the permit process.

"The improvements in our centralized permit center go beyond being fast and efficient; they're about making the process smooth and supportive for every project, big or small," said Rachel Dimond, Community Development Director. "Clients can now schedule appointments, choose specific permit categories, and work with planners focused on meeting their individual needs during their appointment."

Effective Monday, April 1, new walk-in hours for the permit center's public counter are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. While walk-in hours are available, it is recommended that applicants schedule appointments in advance for a seamless experience. For more details, visit the City's Permit Services webpage at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Permits or call 805-654-7869.



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SAVE THE DATE!



Four Points Sheraton | May 16, 2024 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Join us for our Enchanting Spring Business Expo which features over 75 vendors participating in the expo, showcasing their services and products to both members of the Ventura Chamber and the entire community.

This event is totally FREE!

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT
ashley@ventura-chamber.org • (805) 643-7222 • venturachamber.com



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

It's almost becoming a distant memory, those days when outdoor shows never rained out. Even as I'm writing this, I'm "knocking on wood" that the drought is over. We most certainly need the rain and it looks like the proverbial April showers just might continue to dampen some of the outdoor shows including the upcoming concert at Art City with Elaine Alarcon, Agie Williams and more on Friday, April 6 and "Whale of a Concert" featuring the Pier101 Band at Harbor View Park in Oxnard on Sunday, April 7. But then again, the weather has been unpredictable this year, so hopefully we'll get sunny weather for all live music. Keep in mind, some venues might accommodate the inclement weather by bringing the music indoors such as Winchesters, the Aqua Bar at the Crowne Plaza or Leashless Brewing, albeit, in a smaller capacity.

I attended one of those Candlelight concerts at the Oxnard performing Arts Center last fall featuring Halloween type music, and I thought it was fabulous. The room is lit up with candles (battery operated, no open flames), while the Listeso String Quartet performs. The next session of concerts will be held at the Majestic Ventura Theater over two dates with two shows each day (early show at 6:30 pm and later show at 9 pm). The early show on Tuesday April 16 features a tribute to Adele and the later show a tribute to Coldplay. Then on Thursday April 18, the early show is a tribute to Queen and the later one a tribute to Taylor Swift. Tickets are available through Feverup.com.

Kelly Zirbes is passionate about so many things: writing, recording, performing and doing her part to raise funds for the Canine Adoption and Rescue League or CARL. This year CarlFest will be held at Topa Topa Brewing at the Colt Street location on Sunday, April 14, Noon to 3:30 pm, with a performance by Kelly's Lot. But wait... the fun doesn't stop there as they'll also have a silent auction, raffle and food trucks available. This is a family friendly event with a suggested donation to CARL at \$10, but you can give more.

Quick Notes: Spider Baby, Public Nuisance, FSKD, The Indignants, Toledo Panic play an afternoon show at Harley's Camarillo Bowl on Saturday April 6; The New West Symphony performs Messiah at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center on Sunday April 7; The Collection will offer singer/songwriters this month on Tuesday evenings at the Park View Court, 5:30 - 7 pm, on the 9 it's Adam Lasher and on the 16, Lynnzee Fraye; Josh Heinrichs 2024 Smoke Out Tour will land at Mrs. Olson's on Friday, April 12 with One People and Pipe Down, tickets are available via EventBrite.com; and Dan Grimm plays Ojai Valley Brewing on Saturday April 13.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Please send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com, and for updated music listings daily, go to www.VenturaRocks.com.

Music Calendar

For more listings, additional times and genres go to VenturaRocks.com

Anna's Cider

801 E. Main St., Moorpark

Sat 4/6: Shay Moulder

Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Wed 4/3: Jerry Breiner

Sat 4/6: Colette Lovejoy Band

Wed 4/10: Déjà vu Too

Art City

175 Dubbers St., Ventura

Fri 4/5: Elaine Alarcon, Agie Williams, Lord Princess, Joy and Angst, Audio Hiker

Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts

8585 N. Ojai Rd., Ojai

Sun 4/14: Dominic Cheli

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm); Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)

Fri 4/5: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night

Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 4/3: Bryan McCann

Fri 4/5: The Dirty Lowdown

Tues 4/9: Open Mic and Jam

Wed 4/10: Donna Butler

Fri 4/12: Little Alice

Tues 4/16: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 4/5: Caught Red Handed

Sat 4/6: The Renegades

Fri 4/12: Heart and Soul

Sat 4/13: Cinnamon Whiskey

The Collection, Park View Court

2751 Park View Ct., Oxnard

Tues 4/9: Adam Lasher

Tues 4/16: Lynnzee Fraye

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 4/6: Strange Days

Fri 4/12: Flashpants

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Fri 4/5: Nightjacket

Sat 4/6: Gethen Jenkins

Sun 4/7: Erin Alissa

Fri 4/12: Air Waves

Sat 4/13: Radio Skies

Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Sat 4/6: Looking West

Sat 4/13: Braiden Lee Waiters

DW's Café

2855 Johnson Dr., Ventura

Sat 4/13: Frank Barajas & Joe Hamilton

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 4/6: Champagne Sunday

Sun 4/7: David Starr & Erik Stucky

Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Fri 4/12: Nautical Thrust

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 4/5: Buena Onda

Sat 4/6: Honey Owl, Soft Drugs, Hunt & Hokom

Fri 4/12: Operation 90s

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Wed 4/3: RJ Mischo Blues Showcase feat. Fito de la Parra

Thurs 4/4: Ben Scholz Trio

Fri 4/5: Kristina Aglinz Band

Sat 4/6: Donna Deussen (2 pm); Henry Franklin Quartet (8 pm)

Wed 4/10: George Kahn Quartet

Thurs 4/11: WoRK Quintet

Fri 4/12: Nick Mancini

Sat 4/13: Celso Salim & Darryl Carriere (2 pm); Phoenix Big Band (8 pm)

Harbor View Park

3850 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 4/7: Pier101 Band

Harley's Camarillo Bowl

305 Arneill Rd., Camarillo

Sat 4/6: Spider Baby, Public Nuisance, FSKD, The Indignants, Toledo Panic

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 4/5: Mike Belk

Sat 4/6: The Brandon Ragan Project

Limon y Sal

598 E. Main St., Ventura

Music 1-4 pm

Sundays: In Stone

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 4/5: Morrision Drive

Sat 4/6: Lynnzee Fraye

Fri 4/12: Steven & Scarlet

Sat 4/13: Jager Malone

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Thurs 4/11: Gondwana

Fri 4/12: Tori Kelly

Tues 4/16: Candlelight, Tribute to Adele (6:30)

Tribute to Coldplay (9 pm)

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wednesdays: Robert Van

Thursdays: Tom McMorran

Fri 4/5: Lisa Ritner Trio

Sat 4/6: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Fri 4/12: Jim & Mark duo

Sat 4/13: Pam and Hollywood

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 4/5: Joe Delia

Sat 4/6: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 4/7: Doc Rogers Band

Fri 4/12: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sat 4/13: Operation 90s

Sun 4/14: Smokey & Friends

Moofish Café (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Fridays & Saturdays 8-10: Dueling Pianos

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Thurs 4/4: Hoods, Centerpoint, Crowd

Control, Force the Knife

Sun 4/7: Teresa Russell

Fri 4/12: Josh Heinrichs, One People, Pipe

Down

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Sat 4/6: Nathan & Jesse

Sun 4/7: Boom Duo

Sun 4/14: The Listening Room Redux Open

Mic

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 4/5: The Salty Suites

Sat 4/6: Shawn Jones

Fri 4/12: Gregory Allison & Slow Meadow

Sat 4/13: Cary Morin & Ghost Dog

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Fri 4/5: Jared Nels

Sat 4/6: Dylan Cunningham

Sat 4/13: Dan Grimm

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

800 Hobson Way, Oxnard

Sat 4/13: Tierra & Malo

Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura

Sun 4/7: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel

Music Assoc.

Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center

4235 Mar Vista Dr., Camarillo

Sun 4/7: New West Symphony performs Messiah!

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sundays 2 pm

Fri 4/5: NDR CVR SPR GRP

Sun 4/7: Jake McClelland

Fri 4/12: The Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 4/13: Duke Fame Band

Sun 4/14: Katie Shorey

Ric's Restaurant Sports Lounge

2500 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support

Wed 4/3: Gianna Bella

Fri 4/5: Vinyl Gypsies

The Six

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 4/6: Nice & Swell

Thurs 4/11: Medicine Hat

Sat 4/13: Livication

Steckel Park

8080 Mistletoe Rd., Santa Paula

Sat 4/6: Charles Law Band, Tommy Foytek Band, NoBiggee, Black Dragon, Premonition...

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 4/6: Bar Fly

Sat 4/13: The Renegades

Sun 4/14: The Dirty Lowdown

Tierra Rejada Golf Club

15187 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Sat 4/6: NDR CVR SPR GRP

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 4/4: Adrian Floy and THC

Sun 4/7: The Brandon Ragan Project

Topa Topa Brewing

4880 Colt St., Ventura

Sun 4/14: CARLFest with Kelly's Lot

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot Roux & guests

Sat 4/6: Brandywine Buskers (6 pm); Hilary Watson (4 pm)

Sun 4/7: Kenny Devoe & Jamie Savko (1 pm); Morrison Drive (5 pm)

Sat 4/13: Jack Keough (1 pm); Lynnzee Fraye (4 pm); Crosscut 805 (8 pm)

Sun 4/14: Steve and Sally Williams (1 pm); Rodney Trio (5 pm)

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered Expectations

Wednesdays: The Jelly Jam Band

Ventura Harbor Village stage

1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 4/6: Preston Smith

Sun 4/7: Western Suns

Sat 4/13: Kenny Devoe

Sun 4/14: Tony Lee and Forbidden Fruit

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 4/4: Alborosie, FYAH

Sat 4/6: 03 Greedo

Waterside

3500 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 4/7: Sean & Paul

Sun 4/14: Teresa Russell

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sat 3 pm; Sun 3 pm

Thurs 4/4: Karyn 805

Fri 4/5: Mack and D

Sat 4/6: Ellis Brant Trio

Sun 4/7: Cinnamon Whiskey

Thurs 4/11: Brandon Ragan



Ventura Art Scene



Summer Vaughn



Sean Foster



Betsy Laban

On March 30th guests were able to step right into a world of artistic talents at an incredible art show hosted at the Seaward Brewery and organized by **Thomas Trigo**. Local artists **Betsy Laban**, **Summer Vaughn**, and **Sean Foster** displayed captivating paintings, mesmerizing jewelry, and thought-provoking photography. Guests were immersed in a symphony of colors, shapes, and emotions while having a delightful beer. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore the boundless depths of creative expression. Photos by **Patricia Schallert**.

Hypercat Cycleworks Launches Bicycle Tube and Tire Recycling Program

by Shirley Lorraine

In an effort to promote environmental sustainability and support the local cycling community, Hypercat Cycleworks, located at 4160 Market Street, STE 13, proudly announces the launch of its bicycle tube and tire recycling program.

As fervent believers in the preservation of our planet, Hypercat Cycleworks has partnered with Tannus, a leading bicycle tube and tire recycling manufacturer, to initiate this eco-friendly endeavor. Now, members of the bicycling riding public in Ventura are warmly welcomed to bring their bicycle tires

and tubes (butyl only) for recycling. This initiative aims to address the staggering number of tubes dumped into landfills annually, an amount sufficient to tower over the Eiffel Tower at least seven times over! To facilitate this green initiative, Hypercat Cycleworks has convenient collection boxes at the store. When these boxes reach capacity, they are promptly shipped back to Tannus for recycling, ensuring that every tube and tire contributes towards a cleaner, greener future.

"Our commitment to environmental sustainability is deeply ingrained in our ethos," says Rachel Sears Casanta, CO-owner of Hypercat Cycleworks. "By offering this recycling program, we hope to encourage our customers to join us in our efforts to reduce waste and protect our planet."

Hypercat Cycleworks takes pride in being a certified California Green business, a testament to its dedication towards eco-friendly practices. In addition to providing renowned bike fitting services, custom builds, upgrades and repairs, the shop actively seeks ways to minimize its environmental footprint.

Customers eager to participate in this initiative can drop off their

Continued on page 19



The truth of what this wall was covering in Marina Park had finally been revealed. On April 1, while vacationing on Earth this UFO landed at the Park. They wanted to get an "on vacation" photo in the Breeze while vacationing in America so landed here.

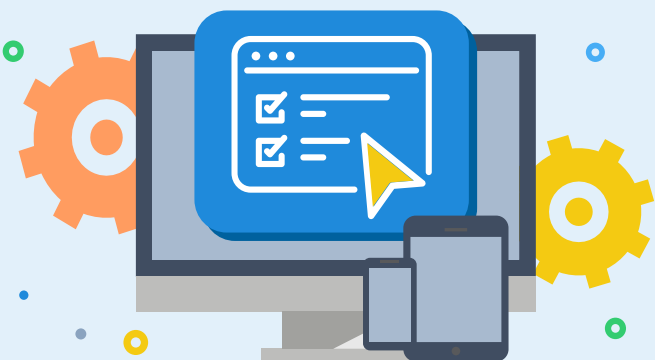


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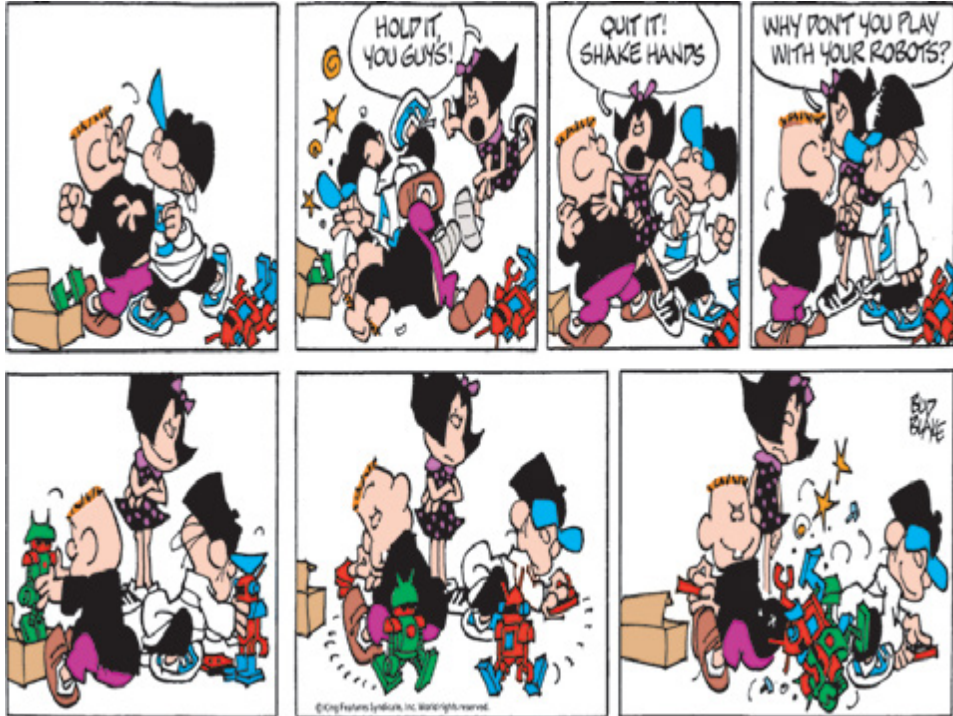
805-654-7869

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Permits



Lighter Breeze

Tiger



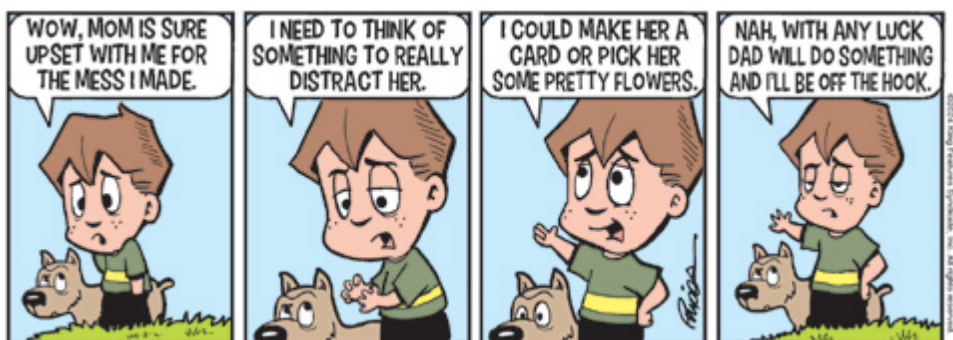
The Spats



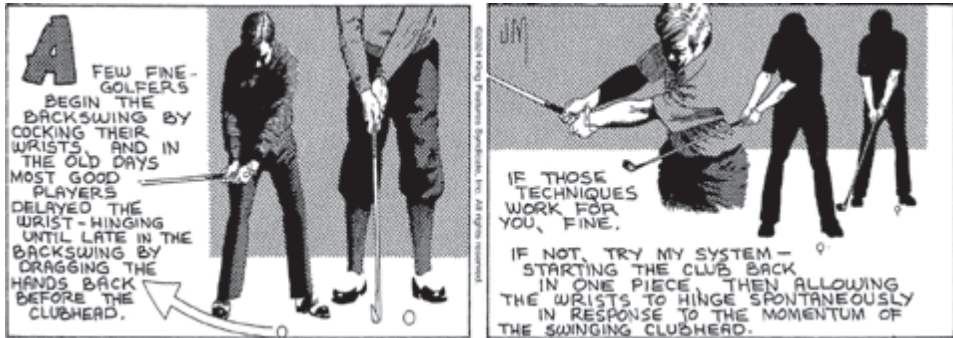
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf With JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 13

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to venturabreeze.com)

8	4				3
5			4	9	7
	6		2	1	
		2		4	6
3	8				5
			1	7	
		6	3	4	
	7		5		2
	3			8	1

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains a 1 of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Weighing device
- 6 Sitar tunes
- 11 Fearful
- 12 Using the Internet
- 14 Eagles' homes
- 15 Julianna and Demi
- 16 Away from SSW
- 17 Auto style
- 19 Wager
- 20 Food regimen
- 22 Cariou of Broadway
- 23 Visibility hindrance
- 24 Cancel
- 26 Journeys
- 28 Head of st.
- 30 Animal doc
- 31 "Lolita" author
- 35 Summary
- 39 Plow pullers
- 40 Felon's flight
- 42 Sitarist Shankar
- 43 Soccer's Hamn
- 44 Prom duds
- 46 Heavy weight
- 47 E-business
- 49 Boring type
- 51 New citizen, perhaps

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11								12				13
14								15				
16				17			18				19	
20			21		22					23		
24				25		26	27					
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39						40		41		42		
43				44				45		46		
47			48					49		50		
51								52				
	53							54				

- 52 Is anxious about
- 53 Messy places
- 54 Leaks slowly
- 9 Car safety feature
- 10 Allergy season sound
- 11 Hourglass fillers
- 13 "Melrose Place" actor
- 18 "Lion" star
- 21 Yank at
- 23 Misanthrope
- 25 - choy
- 27 " - outta here!"
- 29 Library array
- 31 - plume
- 32 Wise sayings
- 33 "Scram!"
- 34 Preventive shot, in slang
- 36 40 winks
- 37 Sidesteps
- 38 Lipstick shades
- 41 Repairs
- 44 Rent
- 45 Footproof
- 48 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- 50 Ruby or Sandra

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A TRAIN

WINNER! BEST PRODUCTION - NY United Solo Festival

A Solo Comedy about One Mom's Journey on the Autism Train

LAUGHTER. SONGS. SUBWAY STOPS. F-BOMBS

Written and Performed by ANNIE TORSIGLIERI
Original Music by BRAD CARROLL

APRIL 10 - 28, 2024

Directed by RISA BRAININ



Show Time

A View from House Seats

The Shroud Raises Questions at Elite

by Shirley Lorraine

Some questions are meant to be posed repeatedly throughout time, the answers to which may never come. This is the basis for *The Shroud*, now playing on the main stage at the Elite Theater in Oxnard.

Written by Michael Kassin and directed by Brian Robert Harris, the play presents a stirring experience as the capable cast wrestles with theories, religion, possible explanations and flat-out mysteries. For more than 700 years, historians and scientists have battled for superiority over the linen cloth espoused to have covered Jesus after his crucifixion. Is it fact or fiction? Or perhaps a little of both? The biggest

question remains unanswered.

In this play, Dr. Laura Gibson (Theresa Secor) is presenting a symposium on the "facts" of the shroud. Attending the presentation are two colleagues from Los Alamos National Laboratory of New Mexico. One of them, Red Broida (Brad Strickland), makes his intense skepticism known, causing quick a ruckus. As a steadfast atheist who had worked on the development of the atomic bomb, Red needs more proof than faith can provide. After some confrontation, he is invited to become part of a scientific team to further investigate the shroud by applying modern testing techniques.

During this team's exploration, Red's mental strength is repeatedly challenged by his memories of personal failure, his colleague, John (Lawrence Gund), a faith healer with demons of her own (Cas Weisberg) and another gentleman from Los Alamos (Ronald Rezac). Erin De Horta appears briefly as Meg, Red's former wife.

In a revealing talk-back with the author after the performance I attended, Mr. Kassin related that his goal in writing this piece was to capture the release and growth one might experience of inner transformation. One way was allowing the audience to follow Red in his spiritual journey when he comes to grips with the absolute faith some hold than can be healing even without proof, to his realization that the invention of the atomic bomb may have had a deleterious effect world-wide and that he was a major factor in that outcome. Other characters experience transformations they need to move forward. Each one

carries a revelation.

The play causes one to reflect on many different levels. Even though the shroud itself is a focal point, the play is about much more than that. It is about inner struggles, faith versus fear, and coming to know yourself and what you believe in. It is about dealing with choices made and the resulting consequences.

The cast manages the weighty material well. Cas Weisberg delivers a strong and compelling performance. She brings her own identity as an Indigenous Two-Spirit actor into the already complex character of Laura with a knowing eye. The blend works especially well in the context of this multi-layered piece.

Theresa Secor, a familiar persona in Ventura County theaters also portrays her character with ease and a bit of humor.

The Shroud runs through April 20. www.theElite.org or 805-483-5118

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

3 Body Problem

- Netflix



Breeze rating from 1 to 4 palm trees, 4 being best.

"3 Body Problem" begins during the 1960 Cultural Revolution in China, when Ye Wenjie (Zine Tseng) watched her father beaten to death in the public square merely for being a notable scientist during the Chinese class warfare. Due to her background as an astrophysicist, Ye was sent to the work camps and after nearly dying was eventually brought to a large radio telescope station nearby to serve the rest of her time. Ye was given limited tasks but quickly came to the conclusion that what they were working on was not a weapon but a communication device.

Ye learned it was designed to communicate with alien life and devised a plan to magnify the signal using the sun, though one of the guards took credit. Ye waited for the right opportunity to be alone to launch the signal and shockingly got a reply repeatedly saying "Do Not Answer" and that she was lucky a pacifist on the other end received her message from a world that would conquer Earth without hesitation. Ignoring this warning Ye replied "Come. We cannot save ourselves. I will help you conquer this world." forever changing the course of history on Earth.

Fast forward to current day in the UK where renowned Oxford scientist Vera Ye (Vidette Lim) (daughter of Ye Wenjie (Rosalind Cho) and Mike Evans, who met in China) led a group of researchers, all former physics students at Oxford, until recent unexplained suicide that coincided with a rash of intentional deaths of scientists around the globe. The students were a very close group of friends: Auggie Salazar (Eiza Gonzalez) who was working on nanofiber tech that she worked closely on with Saul Durand (Jovan Adepo) along with Jin Chen (Jess Hong) and wealthy entrepreneur and

former member of the Oxford physics lab Jack Rooney (John Bradley).

Around the time of Vera's death, Auggie started seeing a countdown and was given a message to quit work on her nanofiber project. Then a strange woman approached her asking "Has the universe ever winked at you?" telling her to be outside at midnight. Auggie told Saul about the interaction and asked him to be with her at midnight. Sure enough, all the stars in the sky started blinking in what Saul thought seemed to be a code that exactly matched Auggie countdown. The next day Auggie performed the scheduled and much anticipated test on her nanofiber project, but immediately shut it down after the text which did make the countdown clock disappear.

Jin visited Ye for answers to Vera's death and Ye said she was constantly playing a video game, giving Jin a strange headset to take with her. It appeared to be a game where Jin had to save the world from some sort of climate catastrophe and after her initial hesitation, played the game to level 3. Jin discovered the problem was that there were 3 suns, not just one, affecting the climate and causing it to become unstable. Jin went to talk to Jack about the headset, but when he tried it on a woman immediately appeared saying you don't belong here and chopped off his head with a Samurai sword. The next day a box with his name showed up at Jack's door with a headset.

British investigator Clarence "Da" Shi (Benedict Wong) was investigating the multiple scientist suicides and discovered several of them possessed the same headset. Ye and Mike Evans knew that it was not a game, but as Jin and Jack eventually realized it was actually a portal to another planet repeatedly experiencing the same climate crisis that was looking for solutions through Earth's scientists. The aliens were also working with Mike and Ye who were gathering allies and supplies around the world in anticipation of the alien race's arrival. Through Mike's arrogance and ignorance, he caused the aliens to not trust humans and the aliens sent a message to every device on Earth saying "YOU ARE BUGS" and related they were on their way to conquer Earth. Runtime: 8 - 1h episodes

Headline copy here

Continued from page 17

used tubes and tires during Hypercat Cycleworks' regular retail business hours, from Tuesday to Friday, 12-5, and Saturdays from 12-4. To sustain the program and cover materials and shipping costs, a nominal fee will be applied for the items recycled.

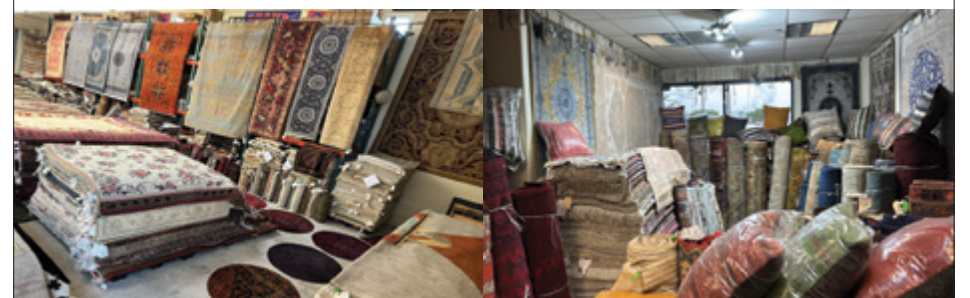
Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just starting out,

Hypercat Cycleworks welcomes you to be part of this movement towards sustainability. Together, let's pedal towards a greener Ventura, one tube and tire at a time!

For more information about Hypercat Cycleworks and its bicycle tube and tire recycling program, visit the shop at 4160 Market Street, STE 13, Ventura, CA, online at www.hypercat.com or call at 805-477-0353.



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Photo by Mark O'Brien

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Everyone in the publication puts in an equal amount of work.

Foothill Technology High School wins three prestigious journalism awards

Foothill Technology High School (FTHS), part of the Ventura Unified School District, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning three major national high school journalism awards. The FTHS journalism program stands out as the sole High School program in California to accomplish this achievement this year, possibly since the inception of the of all three awards in 2016. The FTHS Dragons were honored with the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Crown Award, the SNO Distinguished Sites Award and the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Pacemaker Finalist Award for 2024 recognizing the excellence of The Foothill Dragon Press.

The NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Award is bestowed upon the cream of the crop in high school journalism programs across the United States, with only 24 high schools earning this prestigious recognition this year. The CSPA Crown Award acknowledges overall excellence in either print or digital student publications. "I am constantly amazed at my student journalists and how they operate in a professional manner, but also their togetherness and family vibes in the classroom is what sets them apart from other programs. Journalism here is student run and their success is student

earned; my hope is that they have learned that we are better as a society when we work together, when we learn together, and when we strive to understand each other," stated Journalism Adviser, Yiu Hung Li. Established in 2009, the Foothill Dragon Press is an online-only publication committed to providing the Foothill community with accurate, responsible, thought provoking, and timely journalism. "Clear communication and collaboration played a major role in our publication's success this year.

Everyone in the publication puts in an equal amount of work: the staffers always come up with stories to portray, the editors oversee and send those stories to the editors-in-chief, and the editors-in-chief publish the stories for everyone to see. If our journalism program did not function in this process, our journalism program would not have achieved such recognition," stated Isheeta Pal, Student Writing Section Assignment Editor. "To all aspiring journalism students, let your voice be heard! Whether through art, photography, writing, or even videography, journalism is a platform to express yourself and make an impact on thousands of people around the world," stated Co-Editor-In Chief, Olivia Mowad.

ON STAGE **APRIL 4-21**

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY

BY **Stefano Massini** ADAPTED BY **Ben Power** DIRECTED BY **Oánh Nguyễn**



Chris Butler as Emanuel Lehman

Troy Blendell as Henry Lehman

Leo Marks as Mayer Lehman

Photo: Zach Mendez

etc

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SANTA BARBARA'S PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY



Eleven-year-old engineering wiz Gio Basile created the winning poster design for the 38th Annual California Strawberry Festival.

This is the first California Strawberry Festival poster design contest since 2020 when the festival was canceled due to the pandemic. Gio's generative art design was one of 154 entries from around the country. He takes home the \$2,000 grand prize and VIP tickets to the festival.

Gio lives in Upland with his parents and sister. "Thank you for the opportunity to enter the contest," says Gio. "I want to share my work and hopefully inspire others to be creative."